

world, and in some cases, is celebrated as a national holiday. This past week, the Senate has marked this holiday with a Senate resolution urging the President to designate March 8 as International Women's Day in the United States. Also, in honor of this day, there have been series of briefings and discussions about violence and discrimination against women for Members of Congress and their staff. I hope my colleagues have had an opportunity to participate in these discussions and view the exhibits.

Women have made tremendous strides in the last century. In the United States, more and more women are attending college and earning postgraduate degrees. Consequently, more women are entering the workforce, and starting their own companies. Women all over the world are increasingly becoming more active in the political process, having earned the right to vote, being elected to office, and appointed to positions of power. In the year 2000, 11 countries were lead by women.

In our own country, while much progress has been made in the struggle for equality, there are many cases where women are still at a disadvantage. Women continue to earn less than men. Equal pay for equal work is the law of the land, but that promise remains unfulfilled for many. Although some progress has been made in narrowing the gender wage-gap since Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act in 1963, unfair wage disparities continue to be a problem. Wage discrimination is costing families thousands of dollars each year. I am proud to support legislative efforts to correct this discrepancy.

We cannot forget women and children when the Senate considers reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families later this year. Too often, women and children fall through the cracks of the system. While many women are going to work, many have to sacrifice time spent with their children in order to afford child care, education, and health care for their kids.

Unfortunately, violence against women is still all too prevalent in our country. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of child-bearing age. One out of every six American women have been victims of a rape or an attempted rape. Many rapes go unreported, and more than half of the women attacked knew their assailant. Only recently have states begun to recognize crimes such as stalking or marital rape.

Today, we must also consider the challenges facing women abroad. Women in the developing world are more likely to live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition and lack access to education. Despite the expansion of women's health care research and practices in the last two decades, women still have unequal access to these services.

The HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa is particularly alarming. As chairman of the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have had the opportunity to travel to numerous countries in Africa and see firsthand the devastating toll that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are taking on the people of this continent. According to United Nations reports, over 25 million adults and children in Africa are infected with the HIV virus, the majority of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in which women are infected with the virus at a higher rate than men. UNAIDS, the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, reports that women make up an estimated 55 percent of the HIV-positive adult population in this region, as compared to 47 percent worldwide. Young women are especially at risk. The United Nations reports that in the region girls age 15–19 are infected with HIV at a rate of 15 percent to 23 percent, whereas infection rates among boys of the same age group are 3 percent to 4 percent.

Women in other countries suffer tragic human rights abuses as well. They are victims of domestic violence and illegal trafficking of persons for slavery and prostitution. In some countries, women fall victim to "honor killings," a deplorable practice whereby women are murdered by male relatives for actions that are perceived to bring dishonor to the family.

Rape and sexual assault have often been used as weapons of war. The international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are setting legal precedents in convicting men for rape, torture, and enslavement of women during times of war or regional conflict. These convictions set an international legal precedent for rape to be considered a crime against humanity.

In the last few months, the whole world has come to understand the treatment and status of Afghan women under the reign of the Taliban. Now, as the Afghan people begin to rebuild and reconstruct their country, it is imperative that women play an integral role in that effort. International aid should be given to help women regain their rights to an education, access to quality health care, and involvement in the political process. Women should be included in all levels of government for the future of Afghanistan. Restoring human rights, and, in particular, women's human rights, is key to Afghanistan's successful reconstruction and the transition to democracy.

The protection of women's rights is vital to the success of promoting fundamental human rights. The United States Senate can work towards protecting women's rights and improve the status of women domestically and internationally by acting upon the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. CEDAW is the most comprehensive treaty on women's human rights addressing almost all forms of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage

and family, health care, politics and law. It has been over two decades since the United States signed this treaty, and it still awaits consideration before the United States Senate. Once again, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations to take up this treaty and finally allow the Senate the opportunity to offer its advice and consent on this important convention.

In conclusion, today, as we honor women everywhere and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history, we must recognize that there is still more to be done in the struggle for gender equity. Discrimination and violence against women still exist here at home and abroad. The United States and the rest of the international community must reaffirm their commitment to promote gender equality and human rights around the world.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 223) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 322, S. Res. 214.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 214) designating March 25, 2002, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 214) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

#### S. RES. 214

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors

and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Greece is 1 of only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict for more than 100 years;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in Greece, presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, which set off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece in the World War II period;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a letter to the Prime Minister of Greece, Constantinos Simitis, in January 2001, referred to the "stable foundations and common values" that are the basis of relations between Greece and the United States;

Whereas President Bush in his January 10, 2002 meeting with the Greek Prime Minister, said, "I am most appreciative of your strong stand against terror. You have been a friend in our mutual concerns about routing out terror around the world," and, "I look forward to the Olympics. It's going to be a magnificent moment for the sporting world to have the Olympics return to Athens. I'm confident your country will do a fine job";

Whereas as a member of NATO, Greece has assigned members of its air force to fly surveillance missions over the United States;

Whereas Greece is a stabilizing force by virtue of its political and economic power in the volatile Balkan region, is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe, and will hold the presidency of the European Union in 2003;

Whereas Greece, geographically located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2002, marks the 181st anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2002, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### HUNGER TO HARVEST: DECADE OF SUPPORT FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 262, H. Con. Res. 102.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 102) relating to efforts to reduce hunger in sub-Saharan Africa.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 102) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today, Friday, March 8, until 2 p.m. for the introduction of legislation and the submission of statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 222, submitted earlier today by the two leaders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 222) commending and supporting the troops.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in more than 20 weeks of operations in Afghanistan, our troops have liberated Afghanistan, decimated the Taliban, disrupted al Qaeda operations and captured hundreds of al Qaeda terrorists.

Their success lulled much of the world into thinking that our work in Afghanistan was done. The somber news of earlier this week—that eight of America's finest soldiers had been killed in action—reminds us that there is much to be done in Afghanistan.

Right now, our troops are doing that work. They are engaged in the largest ground offensive of the war, confronting the hardest of the hard core of al Qaeda.

The resolution that we are about to pass reminds our troops that we are thinking of them and are praying for them. The 6-month anniversary of September 11 is next week.

It expresses our condolences to the families of those who have lost loved ones in Operation Enduring Freedom.

And it makes absolutely clear on the 6-month juncture, to the al Qaeda ter-

rorists, and to all who of those who wish to take notes, that we will not stop until they have been defeated.

But this resolution is also important for another reason. On September 14, we voted unanimously to send our troops into action against the perpetrators of the cowardly and heinous attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. That was our constitutional duty, and it is one that none of us takes lightly.

The soldiers who were killed this week—and in the last twenty-one weeks of Operation Enduring Freedom—died doing the work that we sent them out to do. It is only fitting, then, that we take a moment here in the Senate to thank them and their families and to reaffirm the commitment that we made on September 14—that we will not rest until the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks are brought to justice.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 222) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2002

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until the hour of 3 p.m., Monday, March 11; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the energy reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I announced earlier that there will be no rollcall votes on Monday. Many of my colleagues have heard me make similar announcements with some concern for the lost opportunity that these days present. Not having votes means very few amendments are offered. When very few amendments are offered, we lose another critical day in accomplishing all that must be done prior to the coming recess, as well as to the end of this session of Congress.

While there are no votes on Monday, I do hope that Senators will come to the floor and offer amendments so that we might have votes on them Tuesday morning.